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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 000868

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/2014

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CH](#) [NL](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO DUTCH MFA ON EU CHINA ARMS EMBARGO

REF: A. STATE 68263

[1](#)B. THE HAGUE 787 (NOTAL)

[1](#)C. THE HAGUE 140 (NOTAL)

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Embassy The Hague

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[1](#)D. 03 THE HAGUE 3168 (NOTAL)

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARY DALY FOR REASONS
1.5 (B AND D)

[1](#)1. (S) PolMilOff reviewed ref A demarche with Dutch MFA Director for Arms Export Policy Paul van den IJssel on April [1](#)2. Van den IJssel stressed that the Dutch were not among the leaders of the initiative to lift the EU embargo. Nevertheless, he saw merit in the PRC argument that China differs from other countries that the EU maintains arms embargoes against such as Burma and Sudan, with their human rights situations, or countries involved in international terrorism. Van den IJssel said the GONL agreed that China's human rights performance was far from ideal, and that it shared U.S. concerns about possible buildup of China's military posture vis-a-vis Taiwan. He again raised the EU Code of Conduct (refs B-D) stressing that criteria five of the Code addressed avoiding arms transfers that might be used against friendly forces. He said that the Dutch still hope that a number of EU countries will support closely reviewing the Code to see how it could be helpful in the China context.

[1](#)2. (S) Van den IJssel said the GONL faced competing pressures on this issue including a recent unanimous resolution in the Dutch parliament against the lifting the embargo. On the other hand, he claimed the PRC has threatened smaller EU countries against blocking a consensus to lift. In this regard, he noted the Dutch experience in the 1980s when the PRC downgraded relations with the Netherlands following the Dutch sale of two diesel electric submarines to Taiwan. Van den IJssel said the Japanese have also demarched the GONL in opposition to lifting the embargo. He noted that PM Balkenende and FM Bot will be traveling to China on April 5-7. Their briefing notes reiterate points made by FM Bot to parliament in which he said that the Netherlands would not be the only EU country to block consensus on this issue.

(S) Comment: Van den IJssel stressed that the Dutch were in no hurry to see the embargo lifted. While he made clear the GONL will not oppose a lift by itself, he expressed hope that other countries in the EU might be inclined to go slow on the issue. End Comment.

SOBEL